

RECENT ACCCI CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO STERN HU

Subject: Australian citizen Stern Hu in jail in China
Sent: 8 Apr 2016 5:18 pm
From: ACCCI <m.jones@accii.com.au>
To: julie.bishop.mp@aph.gov.au
Cc:

Julie Bishop
Foreign Minister
Australian Government
Canberra, Australia

Dear Minister,

I email to lend my support to the campaign to have Australian citizen, Mr Stern Hu, released from his Chinese imprisonment as soon as possible.

I am advised that 4/5 Australian Prime Ministers have made representations to the PRC/CPC legal authorities for Mr Hu's release without success.

Perhaps during his forthcoming visit to China, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull may achieve a better result.

ACCCI believe Mr Hu's jailing was very unjust and that there were others equally remiss in obtaining commercial information. However Chamber has refrained from publicity as is the wish of Mr Hu's family. Nevertheless on his release the matter needs to be fully investigated by Australian legal authorities, if only in the interests of other Australian business people working in the PRC.

Yours faithfully

Michael C H Jones
President - ACCCI

Subject: Governance and corruption FW: Australian citizen Stern Hu in jail in China
Sent: 13 Apr 2016 5:33 pm
From: ACCCI <m.jones@accii.com.au>
To: julie.bishop.mp@aph.gov.au,Ron Gosbee <rongosbee@gmail.com>
Cc:

Julie Bishop
Foreign Minister
Australian Government
Canberra, Australia

Dear Minister,

I email in regard to my previous email below re Mr Stern Hu, an Australian citizen in jail in China.

Whilst not wishing to overly publicise what we consider to be the unjustness of Mr Hu's imprisonment, in respect for the wishes of his family, nevertheless company members of Chamber, especially Associate Members in both the PRC and USA, believe that a statement clearly enunciating the ACCCI position was necessary. Therefore my email to you is now on the ACCCI website in the Media section.

We recognise that the influence of Chamber has declined since China's joining of the WTO in 2002, and the GFC of 2008 when we closed down our Chinese Key Cities Network throughout the country, however we have maintained our interest in governance issues and corruption in Australia-China Economic Relations. That includes the number of Australian citizens of Chinese ethnic background currently in jail in the PRC.

Libel laws in Australia and the intricacies of CPC laws in China have restricted our advocacy activities in both countries in recent years. However the revelations from the still continuing AWB and Reserve Bank of Australia investigations, and most recently WikiLeaks and Panama Papers, not to mention the large number of Chinese citizens resident in Australia alleged to be guilty of commercial/economic crimes in China, makes Chamber increasingly uneasy about Australian legal procedures.

As Foreign Minister, you have emphasised that you are driven by economic diplomacy and the national interest of Australia as a trading nation. That motivation sits you across domestic as well as international issues including urbanisation and defence. Arguably your participation in this weeks representations in Beijing by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, is equally important for Australia's future role in the Asia Pacific, or Indauspac as we in the Chamber call the geo-political Region surrounding Australia.

Michael

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Australian Government policy on Chinese ethnic Australians? RE: Response to your email to Minister Bishop [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sent: 28 Apr 2016 1:03 pm

From: ACCCI <m.jones@accci.com.au>

To: Consular Feedback <Consular.feedback@dfat.gov.au>, [REDACTED]

Cc:

Julie Bishop
Foreign Minister
Australian Government
Canberra, Australia

Dear Foreign Minister

Thank you for the reply email plus attachments from your Sarah Storey to my initial email concerning what we believe to be the unjust jailing in China of Australian citizen Stern Hu.

I now follow up my second email dated 13th April and await your reply regarding business corruption in Australia and China, and the jailing of business people in both countries.

This is especially worrying in the context of recent reports including Rowan Callick, China Correspondent for the Australian, in an article last Saturday 23rd April titled "Spy alert: foreign Romeos leave China dolls in chains", wherein he specifically names Stern Hu, jailed for 10 years in 2010 for "stealing business secrets", and "for accepting bribes to ensure certain steel companies received shipments of iron ore from his employer, Rio Tinto, during a time of excess demand", as a key example by the Nanjing city authorities and China Central TV in a "new security day" for the education of school children and "as part of a series of reports on national security concerns".

Please advise your government's policy position on what appears to be Chinese authorities public/media demonisation of Mr Stern Hu; as well as many other worrying developments involving Chinese ethnic citizens of Australia based either in Australia or travelling to China for both business and family reasons.

Yours

Michael C H Jones
President - ACCCI



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

26 April 2016

Michael C. H. Jones
President, ACCCI
[via email: m.jones@accci.com.au]

Dear Mr Jones

Thank you for your email of 8 April 2016 to the Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, regarding Stern Hu. I am replying on behalf of the Minister.

I welcome your support and interest in Mr Hu's case and take this opportunity to reassure you that the matter remains a priority for the Australian Government. The Government's approach remains to make representations on the case at all appropriate opportunities. Chinese authorities can be in no doubt of the Government's close interest in Mr Hu's case.

In parallel, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade continues to provide all appropriate consular assistance to Mr Hu, in accordance with the *Consular Services Charter*, a copy of which is attached for your information.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Storey".

Sarah Storey
Assistant Secretary
Consular Operations Branch